BIG SAND LAKE



ASSOCIATION

Big Sand Lake

April 2011 bigsandlake.org

a note From the BSLA President

WELCOME TO THE LAKE SEASON OPENER

I've always considered the arrival of the Spring Big Sand newsletter as the start of lake season. As we are preparing the first newsletter of the year, snow may still be on the ground but our thoughts have turned to summer and time at the lake. Be sure to check the dates of Big Sand summer events listed elsewhere in the newsletter. Do make plans to participate.

And while you're at it, why not just fill out the enclosed membership form and take care of sending in your BSLA dues now. This may be the most convenient time to do so - a return envelope is enclosed; checking in at the Annual Meeting won't take as long; and we will need to send fewer reminder notices.

EXCITING NEWS!! The Big Sand Association (BSLA) website www.bigsandlake.org is up and running. Our plan to have a ROBUST, INTERACTIVE, and USEFUL COMMUNICATION TOOL is now a reality. Perhaps the most exciting and FUN feature is the webcam which provides a 24/7 view of the lake from Evergreen Resort's beach and current weather conditions. Also, a copy of the Big Sand Phone Directory will be available in the Members Only section. See Heather Wittman's article for more website details.

We realize that not all of our members are comfortable with computers and many do not have internet access, especially at the lake. You will not be forgotten. We are in the process of preparing a printed directory which will be available for all Big Sand residents. We will still mail newsletters and the "pink postcards" with details about social events. Announcements of Big Sand events will also be published in the Park Rapids Enterprise. Computers for public use are available at most public libraries - and staff may be available for assistance. We also plan to have a demonstration and tutorial on how to access www.bigsandlake.org at the annual meeting. We hope everyone has an opportunity to enjoy the website. On a more serious note, MN lakes, including Big Sand, are under severe threat of invasive species—especially zebra mussels. Fortunately, elements of Big Sand will not likely sustain Eurasian Milfoil or Curly Leaf Pondweed.

However, no lake is protected from zebra mussels and an infestation of zebra mussels could literally destroy the Big Sand Lake we currently enjoy. See the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for excellent information on zebra mussels:

www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramussels/.

See you at the Lake!

Barbara Kimer President



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Organizational Development & Communication:

Heather Wittman hhayden2@gmail.com

ANNOUNCING THE NEW BIG SAND LAKE WEBSITE



Happy spring! The seasons have changed along with the clock, the ice either has or will be going out shortly, and people are starting to come back to the lake! Along with all these new awakenings comes the new release of the Big Sand Lake website, www.bigsandlake.org. We encourage everyone to take a moment and look at all the hard work that has gone into the site over the winter. Many thanks to the website committee, Dan Dyer, Barb Kimer, and Heather Wittman for their diligent efforts to get this up and running.

We look forward to the site being successful in terms of time management and gathering of information concerning the lake and the

Park Rapids Community. The site has been redesigned with providing a "one stop" resource for our members. For example, in addition to finding BSLA information, there are many links to government and community resources such as, Hubbard County Offices, the Park Rapids Enterprise, the Library, and even the Park Theater.

Those of you who do not live on the lake can keep up to date with the status of conditions on the lake, including the current temperature, humidity and wind direction/velocity. Just log in to www.bigsandlake.org and click on the webcam to see the view looking from Evergreen Lodge to the eastern shore. The image is automatically updated every few minutes.

The website provides for member participation. For example, there is a photo gallery of Big Sand photos. Anyone may view photos. However, to upload photos one must first register for a BSLA photo account by following the directions in that section. Other opportunities for participation are the Big Sand History Wiki and the Forum. The Wiki is where Big Sand memories and stories, historical knowledge and photos can be posted. Information posted on the Wiki will be used to supplement the Big Sand History Project that is also described on the site. The Forum is a discussion format for entries and comments concerning Big Sand.

The Members Only section is restricted to BSLA members and includes the Member Directory (Big Sand Phone Directory), BSLA Board Biographies and BSLA Board Minutes. NOTE: To access this site, use your email address as the username and the generic password "loons". Only users with an email address in the Big Sand database will be allowed access to this section. If you are denied access, please send your email address to info@bigsandlake.org and it will then be added to the database. Please be patient, because for now this will not be an automatic process. It may be several days or perhaps weeks until you are entered into the database and receive confirmation to access this section. We are working to develop a more streamlined process.

We encourage you to log in, have fun and keep up to date with the new www.bigsandlake.org. If you have any comments and/or suggestions please feel free to email me at hhayden2@gmail.com.

Heather Wittman



Water Quality:

From 2007-2010 BSLA members Dan Dyre, Don Douglas, and Ellis Jones have conducted the Dissolved Oxygen Study, and sent samples to Doug Kingsley at the DNR. Following is Doug Kinglsey's summary.

BIG SAND LAKE DISSOLVED OXYGEN (DO) / TEMPERATURE SAMPLING

In 2007, Big and Little Sand Lake Associations agreed to jointly purchase a high quality meter and a probe with 150 feet of cable to measure dissolved oxygen (DO) and temperature from the surface to bottom of the lakes. In 2007, sampling didn't get started until the equipment arrived in mid-July. Since then, sampling has usually started in mid-May and DO and temperature are measured about every two weeks through mid to late-October.

One of the reasons for measuring DO and temperature is to determine how much of the lake is suitable habitat for tullibee (cisco), throughout the open water season. Cisco is a coldwater fish species that generally requires temperatures cooler than about 720 Fahrenheit (F), and dissolved oxygen levels greater than 3 parts per million (ppm). Ciscos are important because they are a primary source of food for the lake's predators, particularly walleye. In the late 1990s anglers reported seeing fewer ciscos on the surface of Big Sand Lake and walleyes appeared skinnier. DNR Fisheries also noted poorer condition and growth of walleyes observed in their samples. There was a concern that cisco abundance may have declined, possibly due to an undetected summer fish kill.

The attached chart shows the results of sampling from 2007 through 2010. The black shaded areas show the bottom layer of water with DO levels less than 3 ppm. The dark gray shaded areas show the upper layer of water with temperature exceeding 720 F. The light gray shaded areas show the middle layer of water with conditions suitable for cisco because temperatures were lower than 720 and DO was higher than 3 ppm.

When sampling starts in May, the lake is still pretty well mixed from the spring "turnover" so temperatures are low and fairly uniform from top to bottom. As surface water warms during the summer, the layer of water exceeding 720 F goes deeper. 2008 and 2010 were warmer summers, and the layer exceeding 720 went down to 27 or 28 feet in early or mid-August. 2009 was a much cooler summer, and surface water only exceeded 720 for a short period in mid-September, and then only down to about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

Similarly, when sampling starts in May, DO levels are high and fairly uniform from top to bottom. As the summer progresses, oxygen is being consumed by organic matter decomposing in the bottom layer of water. As more oxygen is consumed, the bottom layer of water with DO levels less than 3 ppm increases and water with DO greater than 3 ppm gets shallower. The layer of water with DO less than 3 ppm peaked between 43 and 57 feet deep each year of sampling. 2008 was the worst year for low DO, when only the upper 43 feet of water had DO greater than 3 ppm in late September. Later in the season, as water temperature cools and the water column mixes, DO is distributed throughout the water column and DO levels increase again in the lower layer of water.

As the two layers of unsuitable habitat for cisco increase in mid to late summer, the middle layer of suitable cisco habitat, where temperatures are less than 720 F and DO is greater than 3 ppm, gets narrower. If the layers of unsuitable cisco habitat get too large and reach each other or overlap, and the layer of suitable habitat is depleted, a fish kill of cisco will likely occur. So far, we haven't seen that type of situation in Big Sand during the years that have been monitored. 2008 was the worst year observed so far. Water temperatures exceeded 720 down to 27 feet and DO was higher than 3 ppm only down to 43 feet. If those had happened at the same time, that would have left only 16 feet of suitable cisco habitat, between 27 and 43 feet. Fortunately, water temperatures peaked in mid-August and low DO peaked in late September, so there was never less than 43 feet of suitable habitat at any time. (continued on page 4)

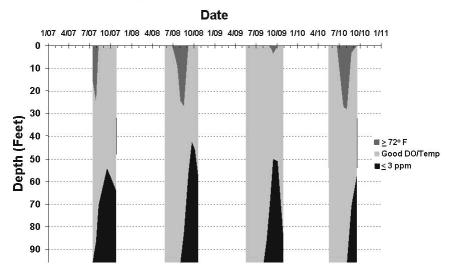


Water Quality: continued from page 3

It will be important to continue monitoring DO and temperature in Big Sand Lake to look for extreme situations or long term trends. As you can see, conditions can vary considerably from year to year. If we have a worse year than 2008, and Big Sand experiences a summer fish kill of cisco, it will be good to understand why and document those conditions. If oxygen consumption increases as a result of unregulated development or other poor land use practices, or if our climate is changing and temperatures increase, either could lead to less habitat for cisco and increased potential for fish kills. Monitoring will help look for those types of long term trends.

If there are questions about this information, you can contact: Doug Kingsley, MN DNR Area Fisheries 218-732-4153 doug.kingsley@state.mn.us

Big Sand Lake Dissolved Oxygen (DO) / Temperature, 2007-2010



BSLA Membership Dues for 2011

Thank you for helping BSLA keep information up to date! Information is for BSLA use only.

Please complete the following form and return it with your dues payment to:

Big Sand Lake Association, P.O. 181, Park Rapids, MN 56470

We encourage each family sharing one cabin to have a BSLA membership.

Your Name:			Today's date		
Address:	Email address:				
\$40 Membership Due	es enclosed				
Plus additional donati	on(optional) \$ = T	otal amount enclosed: \$	_ Payment form: check	cash	
New Membershi	ip: Please complete all of	f the Member Information below	v		
Renewal:	no update needed	Information below is a cha	ange		
MEMBER INFORMATI	ION: (please print)				
Last Name:		First Name(s):			
Big Sand Lake Address	ss: House Number and Ro	oad	_ Mail is delivered here _	yes	_no
Primary Address:	House Number and Str	reet			
	City / State/ Zip				
Big Sand Phone:		Primary Address Phone:_			
Cell Phone(s):					
Email address(s):					
BSLA mailings should	be sent: June - Septemb	perto Big Sand address	to primary address		
	October – May	to Big Sand address	to primary address		

Note: If you want the BSLA newsletter mailed to additional family/cabin members, please attach a separate page with names / complete addresses.

Are you willing to contribute your time, talent and interest for Big Sand Lake? Please check the back side of this form for BSLA volunteer opportunities

Big Sand Lake Association Volunteer Opportunities 2011

For more information about estimated time requirements and expectations contact Barb Kimer, BSLA President, t-bkimer@mns.com or 612-267-7355

I am willing to (p	please mark all areas of interest):
Serve on BSLA	Board of Directors – 3-year terms, 4-6 meetings, May - October
Serve on the B	SLA Charitable Lake Fund Advisory Board – oversees management of the Charitable Fund
Serve on the E	SSLA Charitable Lake Fund committee – assist w/fundraising activities
Provide websi	te technical assistance – keep website up to date/post information
Contribute to	/ edit Newsletter and/or website – newsletter published 2-3 times/year; website on-going
Serve on the S	ocial Committee—plan BSLA events and activities
Host a Social –	pot-luck events at your lake home with supplies donated by BSLA
Plan and Coord	dinate Annual Meeting Amenities – one time event traditionally on the first Saturday after July 4
Coordinate Me	embership – assist with membership recruiting and communication
Serve on the C	alling Tree—contact neighbors to inform them of BSLA activities and events
Coordinate Ca	lling Tree – recruit calling tree volunteers; alert calling tree when events are occurring
Serve on the H	History Project Committee – assist with collecting, writing, publishing Big Sand history
Serve as a Lal	se Management Plan Focus Area Facilitator – coordinate activities of focus area committee
Serve on a Lak	se Management Plan Focus Area Committee – study/share information relating to focus area topic
(Please mark all area	(s) of interest below):
	_Organizational Development/Communication _Water Quality _Fisheries _Wildlife/Natural Environment _Shoreland Education _Invasive Species _Land Use & Zoning _Water Surface Use / Public Access _Finance/Charitable Fund

Other Ideas / Comments:

Important Instructions for BSLA Website Users

To protect the security of the "Member's Area" section of our website, which has links to the Big Sand Phone Directory, BSLA Board Biographies, and BSLA Board Minutes, the following directions <u>cannot</u> be included on the website. **Please save the information below.**

To access the Members Area on www.bigsandlake.org:

- **Step 1**: **Click on "Members Area"** in the top line or in Quick Navigation. You will then see "Please enter password to access this page" with empty boxes under "Login" and "Password."
- Step 2: A. Enter your email address in the "Login" box.
 - B. Enter the generic password "loons" in the "Password" box.
 - Only email addresses in the BSLA database will be accepted. Note: If you receive the message, "Incorrect password," it means that your email address is not recognized, even if you have entered the correct password.
 - 2. If this happens, click on, "Click here to request membership." Fill out and submit the form.
 - You will receive a confirmation email when the submitted information is matched with the BSLA database and the email address confirmed or added.

We ask for your patience. At this time the process is not automatic and it may be a period of time before you receive the confirmation email and can access the Member's Area.

If you have further difficulty or have other concerns, please contact us at info@bigsandlake.org.

Thank You!

Big Sand Lake Charitable Lake Fund Established October 2009

BSLA Charitable Lake Fund Mission Statement

The Fund shall be used to provide financial support to protect, preserve, restore and enhance the quality of Big Sand Lake and its environs.

Our desire to keep Big Sand Lake beautiful is being threatened. Invasive species have become a major issue in the lakes of Minnesota. Lakes in our immediate area (Hubbard and surrounding Counties) are experiencing Zebra Mussels, Curly Pond Weed, and Eurasian Water Milfoil.

Battling invasive species is expensive. Lakes managing invasive species spend many thousands of dollars each year. Our neighbor Portage Lake, through voluntary contributions, has spent approximately \$86,000 since 2003 treating Curly Leaf Pondweed.

In the event Big Sand Lake becomes threatened with an Invasive Species, the Charitable Lake Fund will help us take **immediate** action for diminishing or eliminating the infestation. **We want to be prepared.**

Future possible challenges to our quality of life at Big Sand could include zoning changes, intense development, or water quality changes.

Additionally, the fund isestablished for projects designed to enhance the preservation of Big Sand Lake and its environs. These types of projects require a larger dollar investment then could be achieved through the use of the Big Sand Lake Association treasury.

The BSLA Charitable Lake Fund Advisory Board has set the following goal:

To Raise \$100,000 by December 31, 2013

Fund Value March 2011 - - - \$13,110

Help Reach the Goal!

Those of us who use, enjoy, and love Big Sand Lake have a choice to be proactive in protecting our beautiful natural resource.

Please consider a contribution!

LET'S WORK TOGETHER! PRESERVE BIG SAND LAKE!

?? Something to think about ??

To reach our goal working together, what dollar amount would each property owner need to contribute?

Answer in the next edition of the BSLA Newsletter!

The fund is made up of an**Endowment** 'permanent' Fund and an **Active** 'spendable' Fund. The initial requirement of \$5000 has been met for the Endowment 'permanent' Fund. The Advisory Board Goal: To Raise \$100,000 for the **Active** 'spendable' Fund by December 31, 2013.

Ways to contribute to the fund.

1. Checks may be written to: NMF-Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund 4225 Technology Drive NW Bemidji, MN 56601

2. On Line Credit Card Donations www.nwmf.org

Home Page Left Side 'Support The Foundation'
Fill In Information

Under: Please direct my donation. Select Environmental Funds A new window will appear. Select: Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund Select Active or Endowment Assistance: phone 800.659.7859

3. Securities and Appreciated Properties

Contact:

Puga Vice President for Philanthronic Ser

RitchHouge, Vice President for Philanthropic Services NWMF 800.659.7859

4. Estate Planning
Contact:
RitchHouge, Vice President for Philanthropic Services NWMF
800.659.7859

You are encouraged to contact any member of the advisory board with your questions, thoughts, and suggestions!

Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund Advisory Board

Bob Klepinski, Committee Co-Chair 612.670.1291 bobklepinski@gmail.com Catharine Williamson, Committee Co-Chair 952.936.0204 spiritw@me.com Bill Ellis Al Judson Linda Lee Dr. Tom Van Bruggen Ken Wilcox

Wildlife and the Environment:

Terry Klepinski t.klepinski@gmail.com

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The snow is melting on our lake lots and exposing nature's castoffs. That is, the pine needles from the numerous red and white pines that we are so lucky to have. In order to keep these pine trees healthy consider leaving the pine needles underneath your trees. They are their natural fertilizer and the trees will decline without them. Leave the needles on as large an area as the largest area of the crown of the tree (the largest branched area.) Of course, the grass won't grow under the tree, but what will grow is lots of native plants that are much more desirable to the environment than lawn grass. Try putting Wild Ginger under your pines, it will do well and look great. (If you can't find it at the nursery I will give you some.) Imagine what our lake area would be like without those tree species, let's take care of them while we are able to.

I have removed almost all non-native plants from my 3 ½ acres on Big Sand and haven't looked back. I have a very self-sustaining property that is close to maintenance free and am not funneling fertilizer and pollutants into the lake. If you choose to fertilize with an artificial product, please stay well back from the shore to prevent it from seeping into the lake. A filter barrier, such as native plantings along the shore can further help to screen out pollutants. Keeping Big Sand clean should always be a major priority.

The dark nights when we can enjoy the stars are one of the many things that many of us look forward to when lake season is here. Worldwide, people are concerned about losing the night sky to ambient light. It is getting to be more difficult to find darkness with the growing number of yard lights. Do you have a bright yard light that stays on continually at night? Have you considered turning it off when you aren't there or putting a shield on it so that light is directed downward at the area you wish illuminated? Lights can easily be seen across the lake as well as many properties away and your glow may annoy more people than you think. Try looking at your light from adjoining properties or from the lake. If you can see it, it means you are affecting the way others see the night. By the way, international websites show that there is no data to prove that these lights prevent break-ins. It is argued that they just light the way for burglars when you are not present. If you choose to keep your yard light please find a way to shield it so that it lights your area and not the rest of Big Sand.

BSLA has hired Eleanor Burkett, University of Minnesota Extension Service, several times to give sessions on issues concerning how to best be custodians of the land and lakes. We should all strive to implement her suggested methods so we will be good neighbors to each other and good caretakers for the next generation of lake residents.

Terry Klepinski



Land Use and Zoning:

Irene L Weis, COLA Representative ilweis@arvig.net

HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS (COLA)

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) is comprised of 30 lake associations with a total of 41 lakes and represents 2150 lake association members. Hubbard COLA is a non-profit organization dedicated to our:

VISION:

"COLA is the Leader in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers."

MISSION:

COLA's mission is to protect and enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers; preserve the economic, recreational and natural environmental values of our shore lands and promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats. COLA's mission enhances, promotes and protects the interests of lakeshore property owners, lake associations, local government, the general public and future generations.

Hubbard COLA is active in the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership which has led to the formation of (1) Eighteen lake associations developing lake management plans and (2) the formation of the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force to coordinate a countywide effort to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

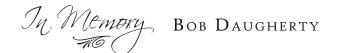
COLA's AIS Task Force Prevention efforts have been supported by DNR Prevention Grants and have focused on the following initiatives: (1) Signage & billboards (2) Resort education/communication (3) Volunteer inspection/awareness training (4) Lake Emma Twp/DNR Watercraft Inspectors (5) Public service announcements (6) AIS Z-Fold pocket brochures and (7) Stronger partnerships with stakeholders.

New or expanded Aquatic Invasive Species initiatives in 2011 will include increased DNR Watercraft Inspection programs with participating lakes within Lake Emma and Arago Townships. New lakes partnering with Henrietta and Hubbard Townships will include Long, Boulder, Big Stony, Duck and Twin Lakes. Big Mantrap Lake will be supporting Watercraft Inspections in partnership with the Hubbard County SWCD. Other new AIS initiatives for 2011 include (1) Conducting volunteer AIS training for lake service professionals including marine dealers & dock/lift installers. (2) Initiating lake association CORE AIS programs that will focus on AIS "expert" teams, AIS lake coordinators and citizen monitoring for early AIS detection.

Hubbard COLA has been instrumental in the formation of the COLA Collaborative, an association of the Coalition of Lake Associations (COLAs) from 16 counties throughout Minnesota that is a group of more than 25,000 citizens interested in the long term protection of Minnesota's waters.

Hubbard COLA has three annual initiatives to support lakeshore and water quality improvement. (1) We provide financial and volunteer support to the Children's Freshwater Festival that is sponsored by the SWCD, (2) we order and distribute shoreline shrubs/trees for lake associations in Hubbard County and (3) we coordinate the Water Monitoring program for the MPCA and DNR.

Hubbard COLA has been recognized locally and throughout the state for our AIS prevention efforts and our clean water initiatives. **Ken Grob**, Hubbard COLA's past president, was selected as the 2010 Minnesota Waters Volunteer of the Year. **Hubbard COLA** was recently selected by the Northwest Minnesota Foundation for the **2010 Quality of Place Award** for Natural Assets.



Bob Daugherty, a longtime summer resident on Big Sand Lake, passed away on November 23, 2010, in Omaha, Nebraska. A very successful businessman, Bob was the founder of Valmont Industries.

Bob enjoyed company and his door was always open. If you talked about business, it was like a graduate course in economics.

He supported many projects in the Park Rapids area with his financial help. Two, large contributions recently helped the hospital-clinic building program. There was one condition with the donations – no publicity, or you would never get another dime.

His home and grounds were always immaculate and he particularly enjoyed his garden. Much of its produce he shared with neighbors and friends.

Valmont's main product was the pivotal irrigator. When you see a pivot with the sign that says "Valley" on it, think of Bob.

Karl Dyre, a friend of Bob's for many years, wrote this tribute.

Directory Update

It has been a very long winter here in Minnesota, and I know you are looking forward to "Lake Season" as am I.

Thanks to everyone who sent in the Directory Update Last fall. The enclosed Membership Dues Form provides another opportunity to update your contact information. Some have sent the information to me directly and that is fine too. My e-mail is t.schell@comcast.net.

We are planning on a new printed directory that will be available at the Annual Meeting on July 9th. More information will follow in the June newsletter. The online Directory is available in the Member's Only section at www.bigsandlake.org.

It has been fun viewing the lake via the web cam from Evergreen Lodge. Waiting to see the first sign of the loons coming back has been a fun late winter past time. If you haven't got a chance to do so, I highly recommend it. I know....it doesn't beat the real thing, being there! Soon.....very soon. See you all at the lake! Tara Schell, t.schell@comcast.net

2011 BSLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS-

President:

Barb Kimer (2010-2012) t-bkimer@msn.com

Past President:

Karen Nelson (2010-2012) bslanews@yahoo.com

Vice-President:

Al Judson (2010-2012) joal1969@gmail.com

Secretary:

Marlene Fairchild (2010-2012) mjf49@msn.com

Treasurer:

Cynthia Jones (2010-2012) riverbend@unitelc.com

Membership and Social Director: Candy Malm (2010-2013) cdmalm@wcta.net Cola Representative: Irene Weis (2009-2012) ilweis@arvig.net

Website Coordinator: Heather Wittman (2010-2013)

hhayden2@gmail.com

Directors:

Dan Dyre (2009-2012) dandyre57@msn.com

Jo Judson (2010-2013) joal1969@gmail.com

Bob Klepinski (2008-2011) bobklepinski (2008-2011)

Terry Klepinski (2008-2011) t.klepinski@gmail.com

Todd Zimmerman (2008-2011) tzimmerman@fredlaw.com Tom Van Bruggen (2008-2011) tvbmd50@gmail.com

Richard Sederstrom (2010-2013) richard_sederstrom1221@q.com

OFF BOARD POSITIONS

BSLA LMP Administrator: Susan Fairchild Winn winns01@yahoo.com

Directory: Tara Schell t.schell@comcast.net

Newsletter: Karen Nelson bslanews@yahoo.com





P.O. Box 181, Park Rapids, MN 56470

Calendar of Events 2011

June

14 Women's Luncheon 11:30 am at Summerhill Farm

July

- 4 Boat Parade
 11:00 am meet at the inlet
- 9 BSLA Annual Meeting 10:00 am at Evergreen Lodge
- 23 Ice Cream Social 3:00-5:00 pm at Iowa Beach For kids of all ages!

August

- 13 Social Gathering 5:30-7:30 pm at Rich Jacobson's 23081 Gunner Drive
- 23 Women's Luncheon 11:30 am at Linda Lee's 20200 Gladwin Drive

September

17 Fall Social Gathering 6:30 pm at Evergreen Lodge



If you are interested in hosting a June social or any other social, please contact Candy Malm at cdmalm@wcta.net.